DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

2001/2002

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ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The accountability report of the Department of Justice for the year ended March 31, 2002 is prepared pursuant to the *Provincial Finance Act*. The Act requires the reporting of outcomes against department/agency business plan information for the fiscal year. The reporting of department/agency outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgements and opinions by department/agency management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Department of Justice management. The report represents, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department business plan for the year.

Michael G. Baker, Q.C.
Minister of Justice

Douglas J. Keefe, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

The Minister and Department of Justice are accountable to the public. The information we are providing in this document is designed to help you understand what we do. The programs and services we are providing are important to the effective administration of justice, and we believe to the people of Nova Scotia.

Much of what we have accomplished is due to the professionalism, dedication and commitment of our staff and for that I am extremely grateful. We're proud of what we have been able to do, and look forward to making even more progress in future.

We encourage you to examine our efforts over the past year, and provide any input you feel is appropriate.

Michael G. Baker, Q.C.
Minister of Justice

INTRODUCTION

This accountability report is based on the goals, priorities and outcomes set out in the Department of Justice business plan for 2001-02. In the plan, the Department set out an ambitious agenda for improving the administration of justice within the Province. In this accountability document, the Department is reporting on the progress that has been made in addressing key priorities.

Among the most significant achievements have been the development and implementation of a plan to improve the response of the justice system to incidents of family violence; expansion of the restorative justice program to cover the entire Province; a new justice of the peace program; and the opening of a new correctional/forensic facility in Burnside.

Despite the careful planning that precedes the establishment of a department's agenda, unforeseen events can have a significant impact on priorities. The terrorism of September 2001 was such an event. In addition to involvement in responding in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, in partnership with all justice ministries across Canada and many other departments and agencies, has worked since the fall of 2001 to develop plans to ensure the Province is adequately prepared to respond to terrorist acts. The significant role played by the Department in the development of a counter-terrorism plan has consumed significant departmental resources. Nonetheless, we are pleased that we made good progress in addressing our other important priorities over the past year.

Mission:

The Department of Justice is committed to the fair and effective administration of justice and to excellence in service to the people of Nova Scotia.

Strategic Goals:

1. Improve public safety and security
2. Provide effective dispute resolution mechanisms
3. Offer a co-ordinated response to victims of crime
4. Provide safe and secure custody, control and effective supervision of offenders
5. Promote the fair and lawful administration of public affairs

Key Messages:

By promoting safe communities, and involving citizens and community groups in crime prevention, we develop a peaceful quality of life which makes Nova Scotia a good place to live and to invest.

With expanded and enhanced conciliation and mediation services for families in crisis, a comprehensive case management and scheduling system for civil cases in the Family Division, and the implementation of the restorative justice program, we are providing forums for resolution of disputes that better respond to the needs of families and victims of crime.

We protect the most vulnerable in our society with programs and services that place greater emphasis on the needs of victims and better coordinate services delivered to those who suffer from crime.

DEPARTMENT PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Improve public safety and security

1. ***Develop a comprehensive and effective crime prevention strategy in cooperation with police, community organizations, schools and the public and corporate sectors.***

In 2001-02, the Community Mobilization Program provided $1.2 million in federal funding to 59 crime prevention projects across the Province. Since its inception, the Program has provided $2.7 million for 130 projects. The projects are designed at the community level and are targeted to prevent crime and mobilize communities. The Crime Prevention Society of Nova Scotia has been re-activated and membership has grown to 35 organizations composed of police and community members at large. A web site was developed for those communities and organizations interested in crime prevention activities and the sharing of information. In cooperation with the Department of Education, an activity booklet was designed and distributed to all Grade 3 students throughout the Province in an effort to prevent bullying.

2. ***Continue the development of a comprehensive audit policy to ensure compliance with provincial policing standards in order to enhance the safety and security of our communities and the quality of police operations.***

An audit plan for 2001-02 was developed and two staff were assigned to provide a full-time focus on this core governance role. Five focussed audits were conducted throughout the year with three post-audits being completed to ensure compliance with recommendations. An audit schedule for 2002-03 is in the final development stage to ensure focussed audits are completed on a continual basis.

3. ***Complete the development of a self-audit program for municipal police services to ensure these agencies are able to effectively monitor key operations within the police service, thereby ensuring a more efficient and effective service to the community.***

An audit workshop was held in June 2001 to provide training in self-audit to municipal police agencies. Most municipal agencies were represented at the training. A "Standard Operating Procedure" (SOP), for municipal police agencies has been developed and is currently being reviewed by the SOP Committee. The SOP will assist municipal agencies in conducting self-audits. An audit training course is planned for Fall 2002. Once this training has been received, it is anticipated that police agencies will be in a position to conduct self-audits.

4. ***Complete a comprehensive strategic plan for the delivery of policing services in consultation with municipal governments, police agencies and other relevant stakeholders.***

The White Paper on Policing was developed by the Department to present options for ensuring policing services are delivered and cost-shared equitably. Consultations took place with municipal officials and various government departments during the year. On the basis of feedback from key stakeholders, the Department prepared a response document regarding eighteen key issues identified during the White Paper process. Discussion will continue in order to resolve the one remaining issue, i.e. the delivery of centralized services.

5. ***Provide advice and assistance to municipal governments, through their police services and boards of police commissioners, regarding the development of interim policing models pending completion of the White Paper on the Development of a Policing Plan for Nova Scotia.***

The reality of policing that municipalities face today has resulted in the rationalization of services, as RCMP detachments and municipal forces amalgamate to service larger areas. Policing reviews have been undertaken in several areas of the province, such as Amherst, Annapolis Royal, Antigonish and Westville, and the Department provided assistance to the Halifax Regional Municipality to conduct a policing study. The Department has also established protocol/procedures for police agencies wishing to determine the most cost-effective means of meeting their law enforcement needs.

6. ***Develop a strategy to combat organized crime in Nova Scotia.***

The Department participates as a member of the federal/provincial/territorial National Coordinating Committee on Organized Crime and its regional affiliate, responsible for the development and implementation of a national strategy to combat organized crime. Federal legislation respecting organized crime (Bill C-24) received Royal Assent in December 2001 and training has been delivered to law enforcement officers and Crown attorneys to familiarize them with the provisions of the new legislation. In consultation with the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police and other key stakeholders, the Department has completed research on governance models for responding to organized crime and is developing an administrative structure to incorporate best practices for implementation in 2002-03.

7. ***Establish a registry of sex offenders.***

At the insistence of several provinces including Nova Scotia, the federal government has agreed to establish a national registry of sex offenders by November 2002. A federal/provincial/territorial committee has developed a model for the registry and federal legislation is being drafted. The Department will continue to work with affected stakeholders

(police, Crown, health officials) to develop procedures for participation in the national registry and to ensure the effective monitoring of registered offenders.

8. In cooperation with the RCMP, strengthen the planning process for provincial policing.

Discussions were held with the RCMP to ensure that provincial policing goals and priorities are incorporated in "H" Division's Annual Planning Document.

9. Secure the delivery of effective policing services to aboriginal communities.

With the concurrence of the affected communities, the Unama'ki Tribal police (UTP) force was disbanded in March 2002 . The four aboriginal communities policed by UTP conducted a policing review and the Band Councils voted in favour of contracting with the RCMP. The process was facilitated and monitored by the Department to ensure the provision of adequate and effective policing services to these communities as per the provisions of the *Nova Scotia Police Act*. The Department continues to work with Band Councils and/or consultative community groups on the Mainland to ensure effective policing.

10. In cooperation with other provincial government departments, improve the response of the justice system to incidents of family violence.

An independent review of the Framework for Action Against Family Violence was completed in May of 2001 by Dawn Russell, Dean of Dalhousie Law School. Dean Russell endorsed the continuation of the Framework and made a number of recommendations for improving the response to family violence. Government responded in November of 2001 with an announcement of the creation of a Justice Learning Centre in Truro which will provide training for justice-related programs, including family violence training. Domestic violence legislation was passed in the fall of 2001 to provide increased protection for victims of family violence and $157,000 is being provided for victim support workers to work with police agencies in identifying high risk cases and providing victim assistance. As well, the Department is working with the Department of Community Services on improved protocols for inter-agency cooperation and information sharing.

11. Respond to occupational health and safety concerns associated with departmental operations.

Occupational Health and Safety inspections have been conducted by staff for all divisions within the department. OH&S issues, including those related to security and air quality, were brought to the attention of senior management and have been addressed. Examples of significant action taken include provision of body armour to sheriffs and reconfiguration of the Central Registry to meet OHS requirements.

*12. **Continue to work in cooperation with the departments of Health, Community Services, Education, the Sport and Recreation Commission and the Youth Secretariat to improve outcomes for children and youth, including the development of effective early intervention strategies targeted to youth at risk.***

Under the auspices of the Children and Youth Action Committee (CAYAC) a number of collaborative initiatives were undertaken, including development of a plan for the provision of mental health services for youth, early childhood development program (federally funded), plans for the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, autism services, and standardization of an education funding formula for departments which have residential services for youth.

In 2001-02, CAYAC completed a comprehensive review of services currently available for youth at risk aged 16-19 and developed recommendations for improving government's response to the needs of this group. The report contains the results of a cross-Canada survey of programs and services provided to this target group in other jurisdictions; a literature review of best practices; consultations with CAYAC departments and other stakeholders; and policy options for an improved response.

Provide Effective Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

*13. **Complete the expansion of the Family Division of the Supreme Court.***

The expansion of the Family Division of the Supreme Court continues to be a priority for the Province and an issue that is raised with the federal government at every opportunity. While we await a federal decision regarding the appointment of superior court judges, we are doing our best to provide uniform services to families across the province. Parent Education is now being offered throughout the province.

*14. **Complete Phase 2 of the restorative justice program to provide services to victims, young offenders and communities throughout Nova Scotia.***

During 2001/02, the Restorative Justice Program became a province-wide service, expanding from the four original pilot communities. Through a network of seven community justice agencies operating from nine sites, the program is now able to provide this service to any eligible youth who may be referred by police, Crown, courts or corrections entry points.

*15. **Improve fine collection and the enforcement of fines.***

The integrity of the justice system is undermined when fines imposed by the courts remain

unpaid. Therefore, the Departments of Justice and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations partnered on an initiative to improve the collection of fines. Since the program's inception four years ago, we have collected $7.2 million in outstanding fines. The project was expanded during the year to include the collection of parking fines for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

16. Modernize and simplify procedures relating to the Probate Act.

The Probate Reform Project commenced in June 2000, to update legislation enacted in 1842. Regulations were developed in the winter of 2001, along with new forms and self-help kits. A training plan was instituted, along with communications with key stakeholders. Legislation has been passed and full implementation occurred in October 2001.

17. Develop a program to assist self-represented litigants in the court system.

The Department, together with a variety of justice partners, has initiated a two-year project to develop and implement strategies to assist self-represented litigants. Strategies under consideration include: simplifying forms and making them more accessible; development of self-help kits; production of other materials to explain the court processes; and development of guidelines for court staff to enable them to provide greater assistance to self-represented litigants.

18. Prepare legislation that will require parents to make restitution to victims where the lack of proper parental supervision has caused a young person to commit a crime.

Legislation has been prepared but has not yet been introduced.

19. Develop a plan for expansion of the jurisdiction of the small claims court.

The jurisdiction of the small claims court was increased from $5,000 to $10,000, providing an accessible and cost-effective dispute resolution mechanism to a greater number of people. The court now also provides for the taxation of costs.

20. Promote mediation services in the civil court process.

The Department participated on a committee of Bar and Bench to establish a roster of mediators for the Supreme Court.

21. Expand the Summary Offence Court to Sydney.

The Summary Offence Court operating in Halifax diverts approximately 2,700 cases from the provincial court docket annually. In expanding the Court to Sydney, we expect that about 90 matters per month will be divested from the Provincial Court - leaving more time for the most

serious cases. The court, which becomes operational in the spring of 2002, offers evening sittings so clients need not take time from work to attend.

22. Implement a new justice of the peace program.

In response to several court decisions - which underscored the need for Justices of the Peace (JPs) performing judicial functions to be independent of Government - a new centralized JP system was created. Working out of the JP Centre in Dartmouth, fourteen JPs report directly to the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court. They are responsible for issuing search warrants, warrants of arrest and conducting bail hearings. The services of the Centre are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The new program commenced operation March 31, 2002.

Offer a Coordinated Response to Victims of Crime

23. Implement processes to enable victims of crime to more readily obtain restitution from offenders.

In consultation with Police and Public Safety Services, Court Services, the Public Prosecution Service, and police agencies across the province, the Victims' Services Division developed a Request for Restitution Form and Information Sheet to be distributed to victims of crime. This form is intended to assist victims to request restitution from offenders, and provide a means for police, Crown attorneys and the judiciary to readily ascertain the amount of financial loss/property damage incurred by a victim of crime.

The Victims' Services Division facilitated federally funded research to determine the factors which affect the ordering and payment of restitution. It was intended the research findings would inform Government's formulation of recommendations and strategies to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims in relation to the awarding and enforcement of restitution.

24. Develop a plan of action to improve the experience of child victim/witnesses in the criminal justice system.

The plan was completed and implementation is proceeding. Screens will be available in all Justice centres by fall 2002 and, within limitations of facilities, child-friendly waiting areas have been established in these centres.

25. Develop and implement a plan for increased use of technology and print materials to respond to increased service demands.

Print materials were developed and are being distributed. A Web page is currently being tested. Additional computer hardware/software was purchased with funding from Justice Canada.

Provide Safe and Secure Custody, Control and Effective Supervision of Offenders

26. Ensure the effective transition of staff and inmates to the new correctional/forensic facility in Burnside and the closure of four adult correctional facilities.

Four adult correctional facilities were closed and all impacted staff were placed or chose to participate in the transition support program. Inmates were transferred to the new institution without incident and the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility and the East Coast Forensic Psychiatric Hospital became fully operational in October 2001.

27. Establish a specialized unit for the mentally ill offender.

This unit was established in the Burnside facility and is fully operational. The unit provides 24 beds for persons who have been remanded to custody by the court for psychiatric assessment or determination of fitness to stand trial. It is also used to house offenders from the correctional facility who become mentally ill for varying periods while in custody. It is professionally administered by psychiatrists of the East Coast Psychiatric Facility and security is provided by the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility. It is the only unit of its kind in Canada.

28. In cooperation with the IWK Health Sciences Centre, the Departments of Health and Community Services, enhance mental health services for young offenders through the establishment of a court clinic.

Under the leadership of CAYAC, a province-wide survey was conducted and analysis completed to determine how best to meet the demand for court assessments for youth in conflict with the law. The resulting report was referred to the Child/Youth Mental Health Services initiative.

29. Establish and evaluate the Intensive Supervision and Support program for high risk young offenders.

The Intensive Support and Supervision Program is intended to provide a) an alternative to custody for high risk young offenders and b) a structured transition to the community for those who are released from custody. Each young person takes part in structured rehabilitation programs as outlined in their individualized case plan. The ISSP promotes responsibility and accountability, reintegration into the community and reduction in the risk of re-offending.

The program was piloted in Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Island in 2001-02. It is planned that the program will be implemented province-wide during 2002-03, in anticipation of the proclamation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* April 1, 2003.

30. Examine a cost recovery program for custody of impaired drivers.

The issue was reviewed by staff and a determination made on the basis of the review that the program not be instituted.

31. Work in partnership with the legal community, service organizations and other government departments to respond effectively to children under 12 who commit crimes.

Under the auspices of CAYAC, a series of regional meetings were held with representatives from law enforcement, child welfare, the educational and health systems to determine the dimensions of the problem and how best to respond, including the identification of 'best practices'. This issue has been referred to the Department of Community Services for action.

32. Implement a plan for programs and services required by the new federal youth justice legislation.

The federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* was passed this year and will be proclaimed April 1, 2003. A multi-disciplinary committee was formed under the auspices of CAYAC to ensure interdepartmental coordination in preparation for the programs and services required by the new legislation. The Young Persons Summary Proceedings Act was passed in the fall of 2001, to ensure consistency between provincial and federal legislation.

Promote the Fair and Lawful Administration of Public Affairs

33. Issue a privacy discussion paper for government and private sector-held personal information.

As a result of the enactment of the federal *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, it was determined that there is no need for provincial legislation in this area.

34. Develop and assess proposals for the reform of the Fatality Inquiries Act.

The *Fatality Investigations Act* was passed in the fall of 2001. It replaces the old legislative framework and clearly specifies the role of the Medical Examiner as well as police in dealing with sudden or unexplained deaths. The new Act outlines when the Medical Examiners Office must be notified regarding a death and changes the process regarding fatality inquiries.

*35. **Implement a system for the comprehensive management of legal services.***

We have streamlined the system for the procurement of legal services across government. A new system to control the purchase of legal services from the private sector has been implemented. The policy ensures there is a coordinated approach to the procurement of legal services. We have also put in place a tracking system to ensure government is getting the best value for taxpayers' dollars.

*36. **Enhance the capacity of the Department to provide law reform and legal policy advice to Government.***

By reallocating resources, the Legal Services Division of the Department has increased legal support to the central agencies of government and to the Legislation Committee responsible for the coordination and development of government legislation.

*37. **In cooperation with the Department of Community Services, implement a new program to provide more cost-effective legal services in child protection cases.***

A team specializing in child protection matters is in place within the Department's Legal Service Division. Transition of files is ongoing.

*38. **Work with other departments to improve government's response to diversity communities.***

An employment equity policy for Crown law agents has been developed. Firms doing business with Government are required to sign a commitment to employment equity, which must be prominently displayed and clearly communicated to current and prospective staff. Our goal is to create a climate of opportunity and understanding. We have provided funds to the RCMP for the hiring of community liaison officers in Cole Harbour, and have put in place a Black Liaison Committee in our Correctional Services Division.

Other Significant Accomplishments

On October 11, 2001, Premier John Hamm announced that Justice Minister Michael Baker would lead the Nova Scotia government's efforts in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy. In order to ensure the coordination of federal/provincial/territorial counter-terrorism efforts and the Nova Scotia response, the Department seconded a senior Crown Attorney to the position of Senior Provincial Advisor, Public Safety and Security. The Advisor is consulting with a broad range of stakeholders (in the fields of law enforcement, emergency response, health, etc) in order to assess the current status of public safety and security readiness and to develop a provincial strategy. A review of provincial legislation is underway and recommended amendments or new

legislation will be considered for upcoming sessions of the Legislature.

In January, 2002, former Quebec judge Fred Kaufman presented his report *Searching for Justice* to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Kaufman was commissioned in November 1999 to conduct a review of the Government's response to allegations of abuse in Nova Scotia youth custody facilities.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Budget Variances (000's)	*Allocations*	*Actual*	*Variance*
Court Services	***$24,737***	***$21,824***	***($2,913)***

Fees collected for services provided by this division were over plan by $1,375,000. In addition, division expenditures were under budget by $1,538,000 as a result of sundry savings across the division. These variances resulted in a net under-expenditure of $2,913,000 in Court Services.

Correctional Services	***$20,906***	***$20,646***	***($260)***

Although expenditures were over spent by $621,000, recoveries were also over budget by $881,000, leaving a net under-expenditure of $260,000.

Police & Public Safety Services	***$19,762***	***$21,482***	***$1,720***

Expenditures were over budget by $583,000 partially due to unexpected costs with respect to Native Policing. As well, sundry recoveries with respect to RCMP policing were under plan by $1,137,000, leaving this division with a net over-expenditure of $1,720,000.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid	***$8,380***	***$8,579***	***$199***

Additional funds to cover sundry operating costs.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	***$1,246***	***$1,211***	***($35)***

No significant variance.

Administration	***$13,852***	***$14,662***	***$810***

No significant variances with the exception of expenditures with respect to the Kaufman Review of the Shelburne Youth Centre. The review requires $535,000 above its original budget allocation.

Department of Justice	***$88,883***	***$88,404***	***($479)***

OUTCOME MEASURES

OVERALL CRIME RATE

One of the strategic goals of the Department is to improve public safety and security. A desired outcome is safe communities.

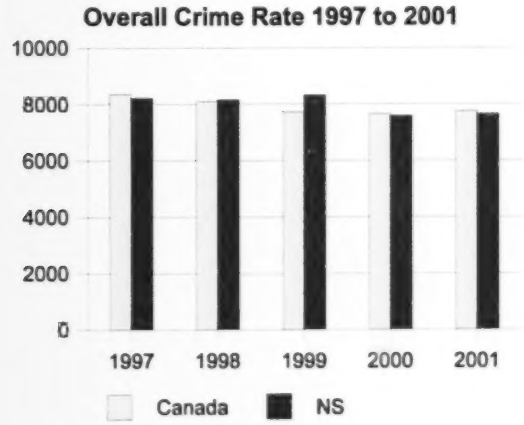
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The overall crime rate tells us how many criminal incidents have been reported to the police during a specific time period for the following types of offences: violent crime, property crime, and 'other' *Criminal Code* offences. The number of criminal offences is then standardized per 100,000 population in order to compare the crime rate in communities of different sizes.

The overall crime rate is one of the key indicators of the overall social and economic well-being of society. The crime rate is affected by a number of different factors including: level of enforcement activity by the police, reporting of criminal incidents by the public, the level of police resources, changes in the law or in government policy. The Department of Justice plays a role in controlling crime by setting standards for policing, contributing to the funding of policing services and supporting community-based initiatives which help to prevent crime.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The most current data available is for 2001. In Nova Scotia there were 7,637 criminal incidents reported per 100,000 population. This figure was below the national average of 7,747 criminal incidents per 100,000 population. Comparing the Nova Scotia crime rate for 2001 versus 2000, a slight increase occurred. However, there is no consistent trend in the data for Nova Scotia.



Source: Statistics Canada

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target for this measure is to maintain the Nova Scotia crime rate below the national average.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Canada	8,355	8,102	7.733	7,655	7,747
Nova Scotia	8,206	8,140	8,307	7,571	7,637

PERCENTAGE OF NOVA SCOTIANS INDICATING THEY FEEL SAFE WHILE WALKING ALONE AT NIGHT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

One of the strategic goals of the Department is to improve public safety and security. A desired outcome is safe communities.

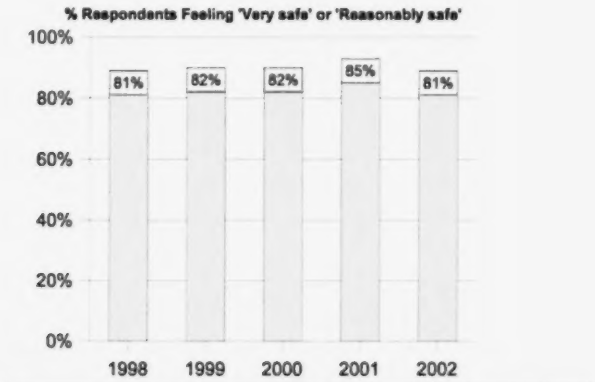
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

Respondents to a public opinion telephone survey were asked how safe they feel walking alone at night in their neighborhood - very safe, reasonably safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe. The percentage reported is for those who felt very safe or reasonably safe.

Perceived safety is one of the key indicators of the overall social and economic well-being of society. The level of perceived safety can be affected by a number of factors including: the level of crime in a community, the reporting of crime by the media, the visibility of police in a community etc. The Department of Justice plays a role in increasing the safety of communities by setting standards for policing services, contributing to the cost of policing and supporting community-based initiatives which help to prevent crime.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002, 81% of Nova Scotians indicated they felt 'very safe' or 'reasonably safe' in their neighbourhoods. The level of perceived safety decreased in 2002 compared to 2001 (81% in 2002 versus 85% in 2001). The finding that Nova Scotians generally have a high level of perceived safety is reinforced by results from the General Social Survey done by Statistics Canada where results from the 1999 survey indicated that Nova Scotia was above the national average.



Source: Corporate Research Associates Omnibus Survey

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

Our target for this measure is to maintain the level of perceived safety above 80%.

PERCENTAGE OF MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES WITH A SELF-AUDIT PROGRAM IN PLACE

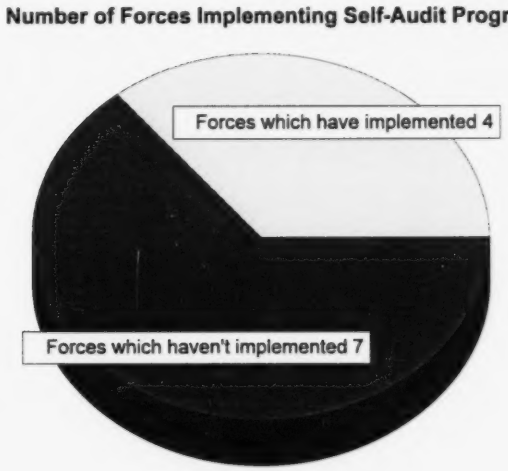
One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to improve public safety and security. A desired outcome is to have effective and efficient policing services through the use of appropriate audit and quality assurance processes.

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of municipal police services with a self-audit program in place provides one indicator relating to the quality of service provided by police organizations. The self-audit process assists police forces in enhancing the quality of service delivered. The implementation of the self-audit program can be affected by a number of factors including police resources and legislative and/or policy requirements.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Currently, four out of 11 municipal police forces (36%) either have a self-audit process in place or have had a member of their respective police forces trained in the self-audit process.



WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have all self-audit training completed by the end of 2003 and all municipal forces operating a self-audit process by the end of 2004/05.

PERCENTAGE OF CASES THAT COMPLETED THE CONCILIATION PROCESS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OR LESS OF INITIATION

One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to provide effective dispute resolution mechanisms. A desired outcome is to reduce waiting times in family court processes.

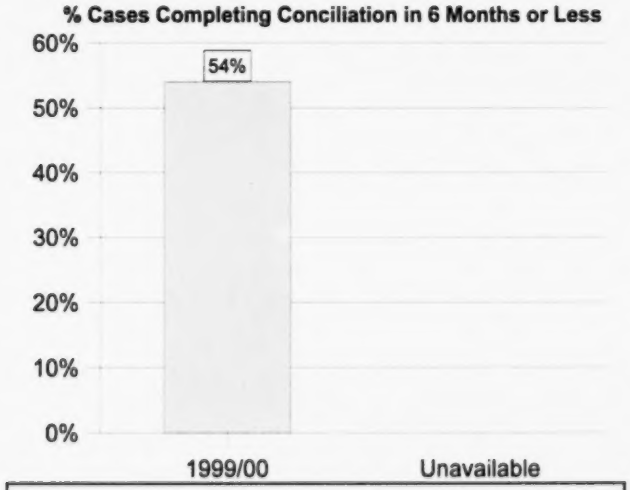
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of cases that completed the conciliation process within six months or less provides information on the time of processing of family law cases. This measure is useful in assessing the waiting times and the quality of service provided. The figure reported is the percentage of cases that took six months or less to complete the conciliation process in the Family Division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

The percentage of cases that complete the conciliation process within six months or less is affected by a number of different factors including: the number of cases being processed through the conciliation process, the number of conciliators available to deal with the case, the relationship between the parties being conciliated and the effectiveness of the conciliation process.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 1999/00, 54% of the cases that proceeded through conciliation completed the process in six months or less. It is planned to collect data to report for 2003/04 to provide comparison data for the 1999/00 figure.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target is to have 70% of the cases complete conciliation in six months or less by 2004/05.

PERCENTAGE OF MONEY OWED IN CHILD SUPPORT THAT IS COLLECTED

One of the strategic goals o f the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to provide effective dispute resolution mechanisms. A desired outcome is to have child support payments paid on time and in full.

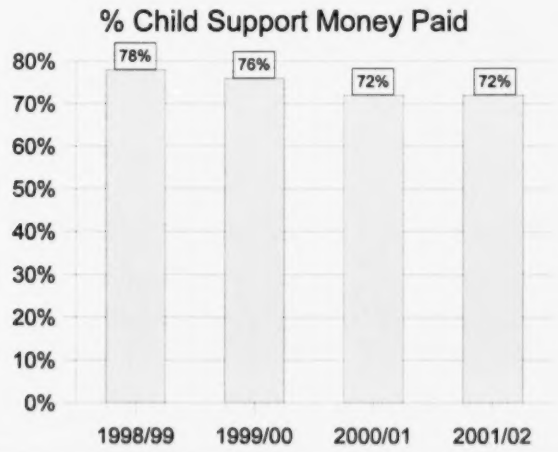
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The amount of money received by the Maintenance Enforcement Program versus the amount of money realizable from court orders provides information on whether parents who have a child support order from the court are receiving the amount of money which is supposed to be paid to them. The figure reported is the percentage of money received by the program out of the total amount of money which should have been submitted.

The percentage of money owed in child support that is collected is one of the key indicators of whether child support is being paid. The collection of child support payments is affected by a number of different factors including: economic conditions in society, the relationship between the party paying child support and the party receiving it and the level of enforcement activity carried out by the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001/02 the percentage of money collected was 72 %. This figure has remained unchanged from 2000/01. Overall, the general trend over the past four years has been a decline in the collection rate for child support payments.



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Program, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have a collection rate of 74 % by 2004/05.

CLIENT SATISFACTION WITH CONCILIATION SERVICE

One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to provide effective dispute resolution mechanisms. A desired outcome is to have satisfied clients for the services offered by court administration.

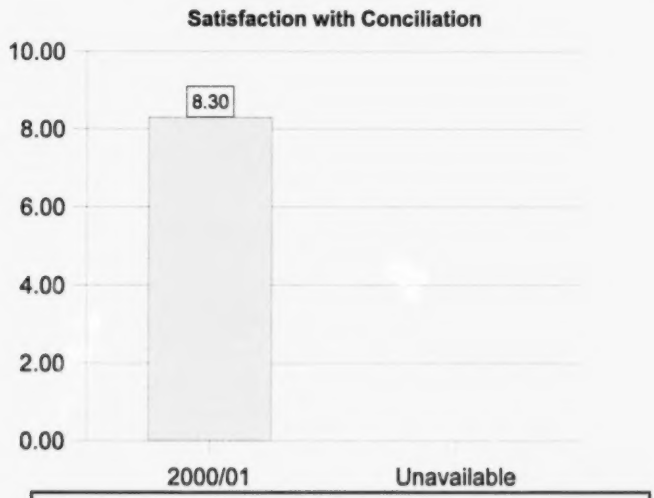
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The level of client satisfaction with conciliation services provides information on the overall quality of service provided. The rating of the conciliator performance is on a 10 point scale with 1 indicating a low level of satisfaction and 10 indicating a high level of satisfaction. The satisfaction measure is obtained from a telephone survey of approximately 200 conciliation clients who were randomly selected. The level of client satisfaction is used to assess the quality of service provided.

The response of conciliation clients to the question of how satisfied they are with the service provided by the conciliator is one of the key indicators of satisfaction with the conciliation process. The level of satisfaction with the service provided by conciliators can be affected by a number of factors including the expectations of the clients, the outcome of the conciliation process and the service provided by the conciliator.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2000/01 the level of satisfaction with the performance of the conciliator averaged 8.3 out of 10. It is planned to collect data to report for 2003/04 to provide comparison data for the 2000/01 figure.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the level of client satisfaction above 7.5 out of 10.

PERCENTAGE OF REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICE CASES WHERE CONTACT WITH THE CLIENT IS INITIATED WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF REFERRAL

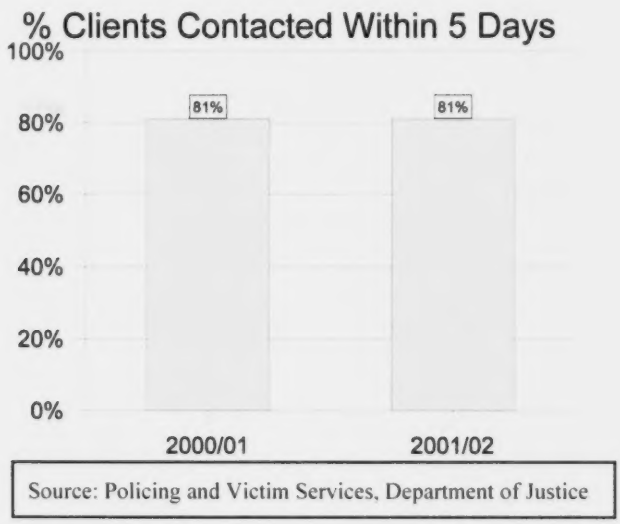
One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to offer a coordinated response to victims of crime. A desired outcome is timely provision of service to clients of the Regional Victims Services program.

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The length of time between referral to the Regional Victim Services program and contact being made with the client provides information on whether support to victims of crime is being provided in a timely manner. The percentage reported is for those contacted within five days of referral by a representative of the Victim Services program. The length of time statistic can be affected by a number of factors including staff resources and the number of referrals to the program.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001/02 81% of the cases that were referred to the Regional Victim Services program were contacted within five days of the referral being made. This figure has remained unchanged compared to 2000/01.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to increase the percentage of cases to 85% by 2004/05.

LEVEL OF CLIENT SATISFACTION

One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to offer a coordinated response to victims of crime. A desired outcome within this core business area is a high level of client satisfaction with the Child Victim Witness program.

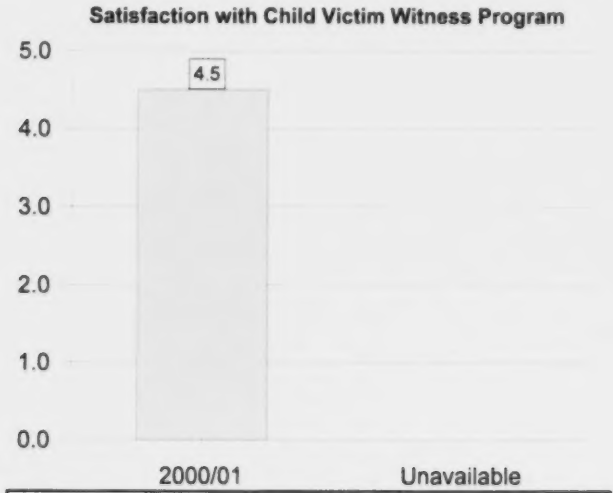
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The level of client satisfaction with the Child Victim Witness program is assessed during an exit interview with the client. A scale is used with 1 indicating poor service and 5 indicating excellent service. The level of client satisfaction is used to assess the quality of service provided.

The response of Child Victim Witness program clients to the question of how satisfied they are with the service provided is one of the key indicators of satisfaction with the service provided. The level of satisfaction with the service provided by staff of the program can be affected by a number of factors including: the expectations of the clients, the outcome of the court process and the service provided by program staff.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2000/01 the level of satisfaction with the service averaged 4.5 out of 5. It is planned to collect data to report for 2003/04 to provide comparison data for the 2000/01 figure.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the level of satisfaction at 4 out of 5 or higher.

PERCENTAGE OF CASES FOR CRIMINAL INJURIES COUNSELLING PROGRAM THAT ARE IN PRIORITY GROUP

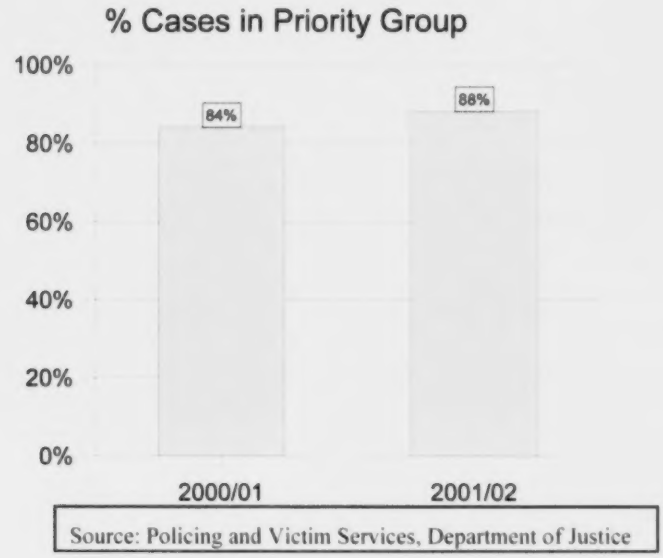
One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to offer a coordinated response to victims of crime. A desired outcome is effective targeting of service.

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of clients served in the high priority group (i.e., sexual assault, physical assault, robbery, homicide, criminal harassment, offences causing bodily harm or death, uttering threats, hostage taking or kidnapping) provides information on whether the Criminal Injuries Counselling Program is effectively targeting its services to priority groups. The percentage reported indicates whether these cases fall into the priority group. This percentage can be influenced by a number of factors including: the frequency of specific types of crimes occurring in the population, the types of applications submitted to the Program for compensation, the policies governing the compensation process and the interpretation of the policies by Program staff.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001/02 the percentage of cases that fell into the priority group for the Criminal Injuries Counseling Program was 88%, a slight increase from the previous fiscal year (84% for 2000/01).



Source: Policing and Victim Services, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure for the Criminal Injuries Counseling program is to maintain at 80% or above.

PERCENTAGE OF CASES FROM REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM THAT ARE IN PRIORITY GROUP

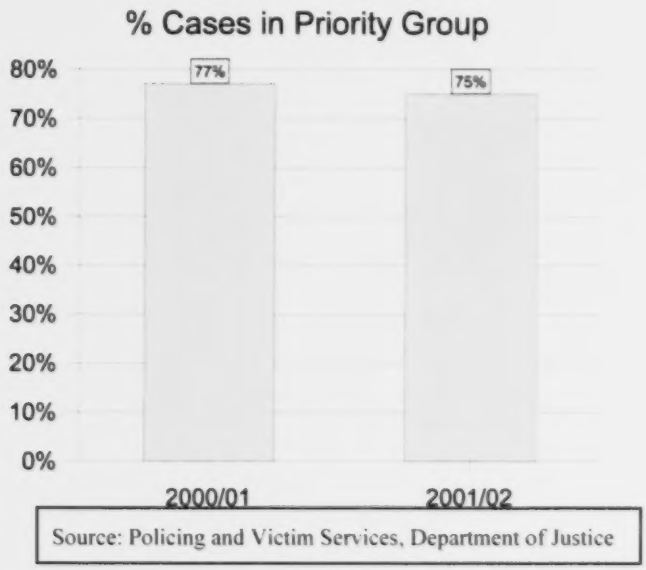
One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to offer a coordinated response to victims of crime. A desired outcome is effective targeting of service.

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of clients served in the high priority group (i.e., homicide, offences causing bodily harm, serious physical assault, robbery, sexual assault, criminal harassment, uttering threats and hostage-taking etc.) provides information on whether the Regional Victim Services is effectively targeting its services. The percentage reported indicates whether these cases fall into the priority group. This percentage can be influenced by a number of factors including: the frequency of specific types of crimes occurring in the population, the types of cases referred to the Program by police, prosecutors etc. and *Criminal Code* provisions giving all victims of crime the right to submit a victim impact statement.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001/02 the percentage of cases that fell into the priority group for Regional Victim Services program was 75%, a slight decline from the previous fiscal year where the figure was 77%.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure for the Regional Victim Services program is to maintain at 75% or above.

MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS FROM DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED BY CRIMINAL INJURIES COUNSELLING PROGRAM UNTIL DECISION RENDERED

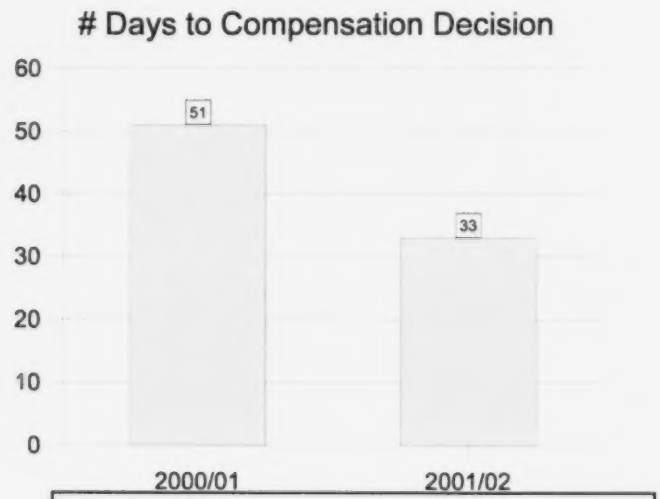
One of the strategic goals for the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to "Offer a coordinated response to victims of crime.". A desired outcome within this goal is "Efficient processing of cases by Criminal Injuries Counselling Program."

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The length of time between when an application is received by the Criminal Injuries Counselling program and a decision when rendered provides information on whether support to victims of crime is being provided in a timely manner. The figure reported is the median (i.e., average) number of days from when an application is received and a decision is rendered. The length of time statistic can be affected by a number of factors including: the length of time it takes various sources to provide case-relevant information allowing for a decision to be made, the complexity of the case and the workload faced by program staff.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001/02 the median number of days between date received and decision rendered was thirty three. This figure decreased from the 2000/01 figure of fifty one days.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the median processing time at forty days or less.

DAILY IN-HOUSE POPULATION COUNTS (YOUNG OFFENDERS)

One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to provide safe and secure custody and control and effective supervision of offenders. A desired outcome is to have a reduced level of incarceration of young offenders.

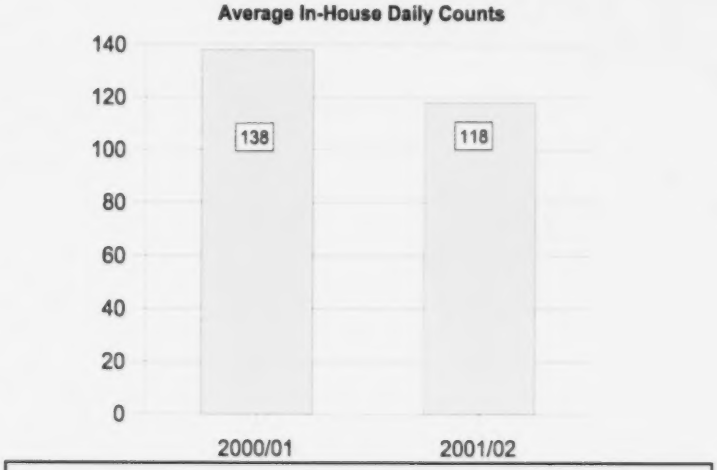
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The daily in-house population counts for young offenders tell us the number of young offenders who are in a correctional facility at any one point in time. The figures reported are an average of the daily in-house population figures for a fiscal year period.

The in-house population count is one of the key indicators of the level of incarceration of young offenders. The in-house population counts can be affected by a number of different factors including: the number of youth sentenced to a period of incarceration, the granting of temporary absence passes to young offenders by Correctional Services, and escapes from institutions.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For 2001/02 there was, on average, an in-house population count of 118 young offenders. This figure represents a decrease from the previous fiscal year (138 in 2000/01).



Source: Policy, Planning and Research Division, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have an average daily in-house population count of 124 or less.

PERCENT OF INCARCERATED YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO RE-OFFEND WITHIN ONE YEAR OF RELEASE

One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to provide safe and secure custody and control and effective supervision of offenders. A desired outcome is a reduced level of recidivism for young offenders incarcerated within correctional facilities.

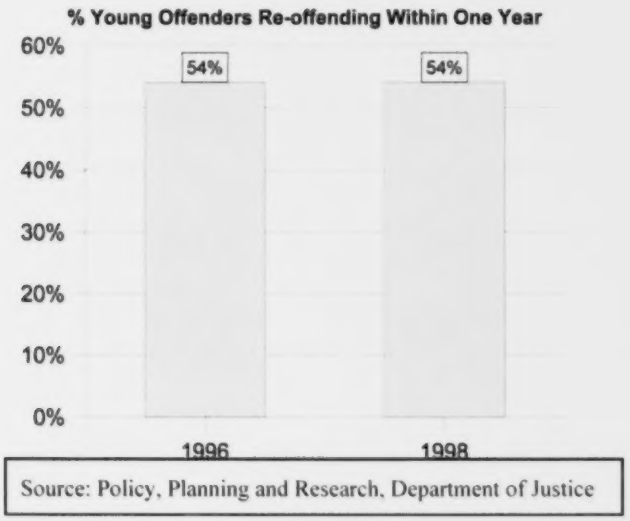
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of incarcerated young offenders who are convicted of a criminal offence within one year of release is one of the key indicators of recidivism among young offenders. The level of re-offending can be affected by a number of different factors including: the success of rehabilitative programs in correctional facilities, enforcement activity by the police, support offered by the family of the young offender and the level of support and/or supervision provided by probation officers.

The figures reported are for two groups of young offenders - one group from 1996 and the second group from 1998

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For the 1998 group of young offenders, 54% re-offended within one year of release from the correctional facility. This figure is unchanged when compared to the 1996 figure (54% for the 1998 group compared to 54% for the 1996 group).



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have the percentage of youth re-offending within one year at 50% by 2004-05.

NUMBER OF ESCAPES PER YEAR FROM A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

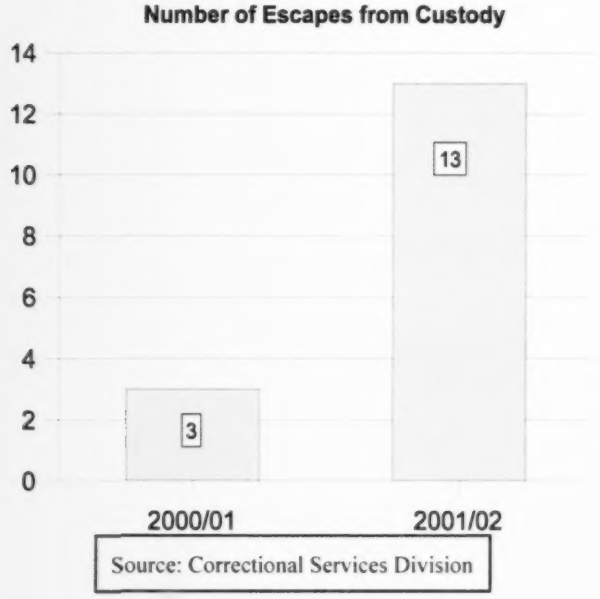
One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to provide safe and secure custody, control and effective supervision of offenders. A desired outcome is to have safe and secure operation of correctional facilities.

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The number of escapes from custody in a year provides information on how secure the facilities are which incarcerate offenders. The figure reported is the total number of escapes from adult and young offender facilities.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For 2001/02 there were 13 escapes from adult and youth correctional facilities. This figure represents an increase from the previous fiscal year (13 in 2001/02 versus 3 in 2000/01).



WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have 0 escapes for future years.

ANNUAL COST TO GOVERNMENT OF PRIVATE LEGAL SERVICES

One of the strategic goals of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to promote the fair and lawful administration of public affairs. A desired outcome is to provide cost-effective delivery of legal services.

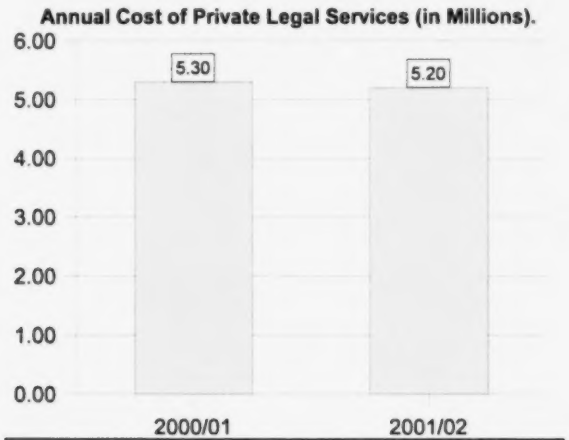
WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The annual cost to Government of private legal services provides information on the extent to which Government is procuring work from private lawyers/legal consultants rather than using internal resources. The figure reported is the approximate dollar cost incurred by Government in using outside lawyers/legal consultants for a given fiscal year.

The amount of money spent on private legal services by Government is one of the key indicators of cost-effective delivery of legal services. The annual cost of private legal services is influenced by a number of factors including: the level of litigation involving Government, the use of private lawyers to provide expert legal advice in specific areas where the expertise is not available within government, the fee levels charged by private sectors law firms and policies relating to the procurement of private legal services.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001/02 the dollar figure for the annual cost to Government of private legal services was $5.2 million. This figure represents a decrease from the annual cost in 2000/01 which was $5.3 million.



Source: Legal Services Division, Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have an annual cost of approximately $3 million by 2004/05.

PERCENTAGE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY APPLICATIONS WHERE A DEPARTMENTAL DECISION IS MADE WITHIN 60 DAYS

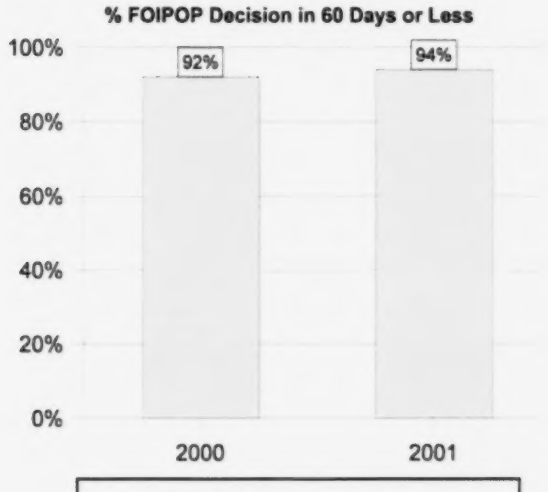
One of the strategic goals for the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is to ensure the lawful administration of public affairs. A desired outcome is efficient processing of applications made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of cases where a departmental decision is made within 60 days provides information on the level of delay in the system. The length of time to process a case can be affected by the overall volume of cases, the complexity of cases and the level of resources available.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2001 the percentage of cases where a decision was made within 60 days increased slightly when 2001 (94%) is compared to 2000 (92%).



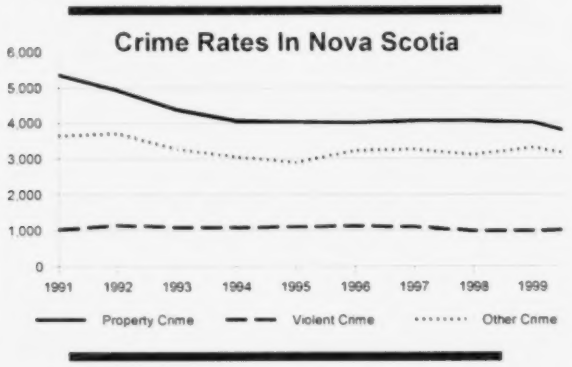
Source: Department of Justice

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

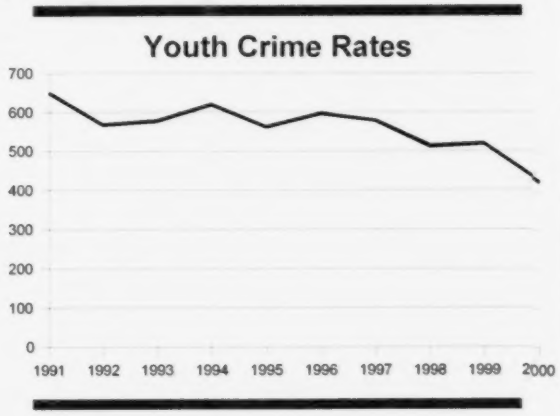
The target for this measure is to maintain above 75% departmental decisions made in 60 days or less.

FACTS AND STATS

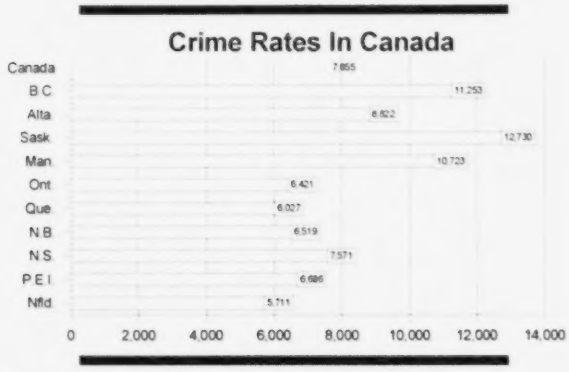
As soon as we turn on the news in the morning, it's usually filled with stories about the latest robbery, home invasion or violent assault. Given this scenario, it's natural to believe that crime is increasing. Yet, the facts tell a different story. We thought it would be helpful to give you some information on crime rates and other important issues relating to justice in Nova Scotia.



Between 1991 and 2000, property crime rates declined by 33 per cent. Between 1992 and 2000, violent crime rates have dropped by 12 per cent. The rates for other crimes, such as arson, bail violations, etc., decreased by 17 per cent from 1991 to 2000.

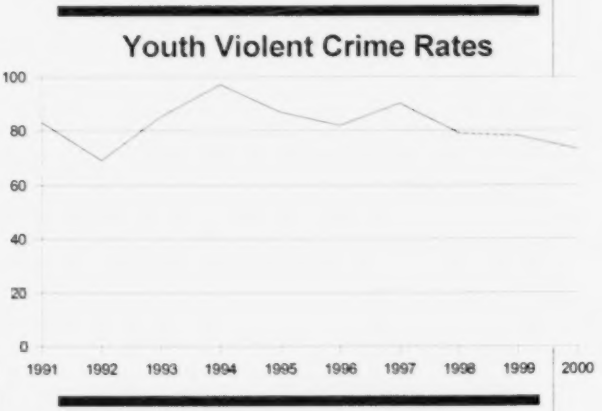


There is a strong perception that youth crime is on the rise. In 1991, the youth crime rate was 651 per 10,000 youth population and by 2000, the rate had declined by 35 per cent to 424 per 10,000. From 1999 the rate declined by 18 percent. Therefore, youth crime rates as measured by the number of young persons charged by police, **have been declining.**



Crime rates in Nova Scotia are decreasing.

How do we compare to the rest of the country? Saskatchewan had the highest crime rate at 12,730 incidents per 100,000 population. Newfoundland had the lowest rate at 5,711 per 100,000 population. At home, our rate was 7,571 per 100,000 population which is below the national average, the fifth highest in Canada and the highest in Atlantic Canada.



Many believe that more young people are committing violent crimes. The reality is that youth violent crime rates peaked in 1994 at 97 and dropped to 73 in 2000, which is a 25 per cent decrease. From 1999 to 2000, the rates decreased by six per cent–from 78 to 73. Violent youth crimes, as measured by the number of young persons charged by police with violent offences have **declined significantly since 1994.**